

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8, as follows:

In order to achieve this object, a thermostat device according to an embodiment of the present invention (i.e. the invention of claim 1) which is incorporated within a valve housing provided with a cooling water passage that constitutes a cooling water channel of an internal combustion engine, which has a built-in thermally expansive body that is thermally expanded or contracted by change of temperature of the cooling water, and which comprises a piston rod that is slid by thermal expansion/contraction of this thermally expansive body, wherein a valve body is subjected to opening/closing operation with respect to a valve seat formed within the valve housing by sliding of the piston rod in accordance with change of volume of the thermally expansive body, is characterized in that the valve seat shape further on the downstream side in the direction of flow of the cooling water than the valve seat where the valve body is seated, which is an internal wall face forming a cooling water passage within the valve housing, is formed in a shape such that, in the valve open condition, the cross-sectional area of the passage that is formed between the inlet seal of the valve seat on which the valve body is seated and the top face of the valve body gradually decreases on the cooling water inlet side with reference to the maximum passage cross-sectional area on the upstream side in the direction of flow of the cooling water, and such that the [cross-sectional] area of the passage at the face perpendicular to the top face gradually increases on the cooling water outlet side so that cooling water flows along the top face of the valve body.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8, as follows:

A thermostat device according to another embodiment of the present invention (invention of claim 2) is characterized in that, in claim 1, the valve housing comprises a plurality of support legs that support a thermoelement in which the thermally expansive body

is sealed, and cooling water passages (for example grooves) are formed in some of these support legs along the direction of flow of the cooling water.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 15, as follows:

A thermostat device according to yet another embodiment of the present invention (~~invention of claim 3~~) is characterized in that, in the thermostat device ~~of claim 1 or 2~~, there is provided a frame member that supports a thermoelement in which the thermally expansive body is sealed, and a hole for passage of cooling water is formed in the bottom face of this frame member.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 21, as follows:

A thermostat device according to still another embodiment of the present invention (~~invention of claim 4~~) is characterized in that, in the thermostat device ~~of claim 1, 2, or 3~~, a taper-shaped section is formed that forms a tapered face such that the central section thereof is elevated around the periphery of a thermoelement at the top face of the valve body.

Please delete the abstract at page 18 and substitute therefor a new abstract as shown on the attached sheets: